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Plaintiff THEODORE GRIFFIN (hereafter sometimes referred to as "GRIFFIN") alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

PLAINTIFF

- Plaintiff THEODORE GRIFFIN, an individual, is a current employee of 1. The Boeing Company.
- Plaintiff is, and at all relevant times herein was, an African-American employee of The Boeing Company, working at facilities in the City of El Segundo, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

DEFENDANTS

- 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant THE BOEING COMPANY (sometimes referred to herein as "Boeing") is a Delaware Corporation doing business, and employing over 16,000 people, in the State of California, with a major manufacturing and business facility in the City of El Segundo, County of Los Angeles.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant BOEING DEFENSE SPACE & SECURITY ("Boeing DS&S") is a division of Boeing doing business in the State of California.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant BOEING NETWORK & SPACE SYSTEMS ("Boeing NS&S") is a part of Boeing DS&S, which does business in the State of California.
- At the time of the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiff is unaware of the true 6. names and capacities of the Defendants, who are the employees, agents, representatives, co-conspirators and/or are otherwise acting on behalf of Defendants Boeing, Boeing DS&S and Boeing NS&S (hereafter collectively referred to as "Boeing"), and therefore sues these persons using the fictitious names Does 1-10, inclusive. Plaintiff will amend the Complaint to allege the true names and capacities

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- 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges, that each of the fictitiously named Defendants are in some manner responsible for the occurrences, acts and omissions alleged herein, and that Plaintiff's damages as alleged herein were proximately caused by such occurrences, acts and omissions of said Doe Defendants, and by each of them. When Plaintiff alleges conduct against any Defendant hereafter, said Defendant will include the named Defendants and Defendant Does 1-10.
- 8. Defendants Boeing and Does 1-10 were and are at all relevant times acting as the agents, partners, joint venturers and co-conspirators of each other, with each act or omission being perpetrated within the scope of the agency, partnership, venture or conspiracy.
- 9. Plaintiff has suffered losses in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of the Court, which will be established according to proof at time of trial.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. Jurisdiction is proper in the Federal Court pursuant to diversity jurisdiction per 28 U.S.C. § 1332. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00.
- 11. Venue is proper in this District because the defendants and each of them have engaged in significant business operations, and the employment of thousands of people, in the County of Los Angeles, California, including a facility in El Segundo, wherein Plaintiff is or was employed, and wherein each of the harms to Plaintiff complained of herein occurred.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12. In 1865, The United States Congress abolished slavery by passing the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. What followed were years of the infamous Jim Crow laws in the South, the Ku Klux Klan, and disparate treatment against African Americans, including the highest unemployment rate of any ethnicity in history, a widespread refusal by white America to promote African Americans to higher level

managerial positions, and unequal pay for African Americans doing the same work as their higher paid Caucasian co-employees. With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it appeared America had turned a corner. The message was now clear: there was to be "no discrimination against persons based on race or ethnicity." While most of America got that message, it has become obvious that at least one major multicultural company either was not listening or simply chose to ignore the law. That company is Boeing.

13. Boeing has in its agreement with its employees a written policy that states:

"The Employer and the Union agree that, in applying the terms of this Agreement, neither party will discriminate against any employee because of race, national origin, sex, age, color, creed, physical handicap, sexual orientation or for any other reason prohibited by law."

Boeing, specifically at its El Segundo, California location, has violated this policy by continuing its well-established pattern of creating a corporate culture wherein employees of African American descent are subjected to disparate treatment, harassment, public embarrassment, and ridicule by managers and colleagues, and a number of adverse employment actions including failure to be promoted to positions for which they are qualified, being initially hired into lower-tier jobs than comparably qualified Caucasian candidates, failure to receive preferred job assignments, failure to receive job assignments necessary for promotion, and/or termination.

- 14. The list of Boeing's violations of state and federal anti-discrimination laws is too long to recite. A few examples of Boeing's willful discrimination are:
 - A 1997 Boeing internal audit found that "Blacks received lower starting salaries than Caucasians" doing comparable work, and found Boeing exhibited "racial bias" against hiring African Americans.
 - 2) Boeing dodged a bullet in 1998 when it paid 43 African Americans only \$4.5 million for Labor Code violations in an

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- action brought by the U.S. Department of Labor. Boeing's Director of Employee Relations, Marcella Fleming, told Boeing management that "Boeing's potential liability in that case was \$120,000,000."
- In 1999, Boeing paid a large group of African American 3) employees \$15,000,000 in Staton v. Boeing Co., Case No. CV-98-00761-JCC. Much more significant than the \$15,000,000 payment is the fact that Boeing has paid \$1.3 billion "off the books" to keep the quota industry and federal government investigators and regulators (e.g. EEOC and Department of Labor) off their backs.

Boeing's internal protections are inadequate to protect employees from discrimination. In its most recent transgression, members of the Human Resources department and managers tasked with preventing discrimination, including but not limited to Sandy Specht, openly exhibit discriminatory behavior and failed to properly investigate claims of racial discrimination.

15. In addition to its flagrant racial discrimination, Boeing, specifically at its El Segundo, California location, allows for systemic nepotism, creating an environment wherein senior or preferred Caucasian employees and Caucasian family members or associates of senior or preferred employees are hired into more desirable jobs, wrongfully provided with interview questions in advance of hiring or promotion interviews, and routinely transferred between jobs and departments in such a way to allow for their career advancement at the expense of similarly qualified employees who are not related to or associated with senior or preferred employees. These family members and associates of senior and preferred employees are also routinely transferred between jobs and departments in such a way as to insulate them from layoffs.

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16. By allowing the nepotism described herein to occur, Boeing is blatantly violating its own internal policies and procedures, specifically, but not limited to, Procedure PRO-58, "employment of Relatives and Close Personal Friends."

- 17. Similarly, hiring and promotion decisions are sometimes affected by improper relationships between Boeing employees and employees of Boeing vendors, many of whom are former employees of Boeing themselves. These decisions sometimes also include nepotism and race discrimination. By way of example, Ron McFatridge, a former Caucasian employee of Boeing vendor Cicon, who came to work for Boeing before retiring, hired other former Cicon employees and promoted them ahead of other Boeing employees with more experience. Mr. McFatridge and the other former Cicon employees hired by Boeing then created an improper client-vendor relationship with Boeing, in violation of Boeing's own internal policies, to the detriment of Boeing itself, and to the detriment of its employees who are members of protected classes, including racial minorities, and those who are not members of the nepotistic preferred "old boy network" of Boeing employees.
- 18. As further example of the impermissible nepotism at the Boeing El Segundo facility, Boeing manager Chuck Brockett, Caucasian, was impermissibly involved in the hiring process for his nephew Cody Oleson, also Caucasian, and not only had direct input in Oleson's hiring, but was also Oleson's supervisor up until the time the Oleson was promoted to a salary position leap frogging a number of more experienced and more qualified African American employees. What is more, Caucasian Boeing manager Brent Patchell was able to secure employment for his son, step-daughter, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, all Caucasian. Patchell's son, Curtis Patchell, and his step-daughter, Nicole Perez, were hired by Chuck Brockett, and initially worked under Brockett before quickly being promoted to salary positions, similar to the unjustified career advancement of Brockett's nephew, Oleson. Brockett also hired and quickly promoted Vanessa Sarria, who is the daughter in law of another long-time Boeing employee. Recently, Joshua Bristol, the

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son of long-time Caucasian employee, Kenneth Bristol, was hired as a favor to his father. In all of these instances of nepotism, the perpetrators received at most a verbal warning, and often no punishment at all. This nepotism manifests itself as race discrimination.

19. African American employees at Boeing, El Segundo are frequently victims of disparate treatment. For example, Caucasian Boeing employee Brian Sullivan received a DUI while working remotely at a satellite launch and was given only the very mild punishment of being put on an alternate work week. African-American employees receive much harsher punishments for less serious infractions. Other instances of similar disparate treatment are set forth herein.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFF GRIFFIN

- 20. Plaintiff THEODORE GRIFFIN is African American and was laid off in approximately November of 2015, after working at Boeing for approximately 4 years. For most of his employment, Plaintiff held the position of Mechanical Technician. Prior to working at Boeing, Plaintiff worked a Northrop Grumman for 16 years, 8 of which he worked as a Mechanical Technician – which required similar responsibilities and skills as the position he held at Boeing. During his time at Boeing, overwhelmingly, the people who received promotions were related to members of management and were Caucasian. Further, Plaintiff was consistently left uninformed of the processes by which promotional decisions were made.
- In 2015, Plaintiff put in a resume and applied for an Integrated Lead position. He was interviewed by other people in that position. The manager was not present during the interview process. Instead, three or four other leads (all or mostly Caucasian) interviewed Plaintiff. All managers were Caucasian as well. There was not a single African American manager. Months later, Plaintiff was informed that the positions were filled by four Caucasian employees, at least three of which were significantly less experienced that Plaintiff.

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- Not only did Plaintiff not receive the position, he was also let go shortly 22. thereafter. Plaintiff suffered numerous adverse employment actions, including not receiving promotions because of his race, and because of Boeing's improper nepotistic network practices in violation of Boeing's own internal policies.
- 23. On January 31, 2017, Plaintiff THEODORE GRIFFIN filed an Administrative Complaint in compliance with the Department of Fair Housing and Employment ("DFEH"), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the government code. The DFEH issued GRIFFIN a Notice of Case Closure and attendant Right to Sue notice authorizing this lawsuit.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON RACE AND ENGAGEMENT IN PROTECTIVE ACTIVITY IN VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT ("FEHA"),

Cal. Gov. Code §12940(a), et. seq.;)

- 24. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference and re-allege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 23, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.
- 25. Government Code Section 12940(a) makes it an unlawful employment practice for any employer to discriminate on the basis of race, by making unlawful said discrimination in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment. Government Code Section 12926(n) also states that "race" includes an employee who is associated with a person who has, or is perceived to have those characteristics.
- 26. Defendants violated this prohibition on discriminatory acts or omissions based upon race, and engagement in protected activity for making claims of discrimination, and for subjecting Plaintiff to disparate treatment as set forth in the Factual Allegations, above.

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27. FEHA does not require that an employer's discriminatory act constitute
one swift blow, rather than a series of subtle yet damaging injuries. The individual
acts of discriminatory conduct as described herein, as well as the totality of such
conduct, constitute an adverse employment action. Moreover, FEHA protects an
employee against unlawful discrimination with respect not only to "ultimate
employment actions" such as termination or demotion, but also the entire spectrum of
employment actions that are reasonably likely to adversely or materially affect an
employee's job performance or opportunity for advancement in his career.

28. As a result of Defendants' discriminatory conduct, Plaintiff has suffered both economic and non-economic damages. Additionally, in committing the abovedescribed acts, Defendants acted in a willful, oppressive and malicious manner towards Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, annoy, injure and harass Plaintiff in complete disregard to the harm that this conduct would cause. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial against all Defendants except any Defendant who is specifically excluded by law from being liable for punitive damages.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(HARASSMENT BASED UPON RACE AND ENGAGEMENT IN PROTECTED ACTIVITY IN VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT ("FEHA"),

Cal. Gov. Code §12940(j), et. seq.;)

- 29. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 28, as set forth above.
- Government Code Section 12940(j) makes it an unlawful employment 30. practice for any employer to harass an employee, or any person providing services thereto on the basis of race, or to create a hostile work environment based thereon. Government Code Section 12926(n) also states that racial harassment is actionable

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even if the employee is associated with a person who has, or is perceived to have those characteristics.

- 31. Defendants violated this prohibition on discriminatory and harassing acts or omissions based upon race and engaging in the California protected activity of filing a Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") claim with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), by, among other things, subjecting Plaintiff to the treatment as set forth in Factual Allegations ¶¶ 20-23, above, and in the allegations made by Plaintiff herein.
- 32. As a result of Defendants' harassing conduct, Plaintiff has suffered both economic and non-economic damages. Additionally, in committing the abovedescribed acts, Defendants acted in a willful, oppressive and malicious manner towards Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, annoy, injure and harass Plaintiff in complete disregard to the harm that this conduct would cause him. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial against all Defendants except any Defendant who is specifically excluded by law from being liable for punitive damages.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(FAILURE TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT ("FEHA", Cal. Gov. Code §12940(k), et. seq.;)

- 33. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 32, as set forth above.
- Government Code Section 12940(k) makes it an unlawful employment 34. practice "for an employer . . . to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring."

prevent the discrimination
Allegations $\P\P$ 20-23, and in

36. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered both economic and non-economic damages. Additionally, in committing the above-described acts, Defendants acted in a willful, oppressive and malicious manner towards Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, annoy, injure and harass Plaintiff in complete disregard of the harm that this conduct would cause him. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial against all Defendants.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS)

- 37. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 36, as set forth above.
- 38. The conduct of various Boeing employees and former employees, including but not limited to, Mike Perez, Jim Bellows, Jim Schultz, Inga Coupe, Chuck Brockett, Heather O'Leary, Tom Senkevich, and Sandy Specht, among others, as set forth throughout, was extreme and outrageous, and done by with the intentional and/or reckless disregard of the probability of causing Plaintiff to suffer humiliation, mental anguish, emotional, and physical distress. Any racial discrimination cannot be tolerated by a civil society.
- 39. This conduct, as set forth *supra*, was a result of an intent to harass, retaliate, discriminate, and terminate Plaintiff, and ultimately inflict emotional distress upon Plaintiff.
- 40. Plaintiff suffered adverse employment actions on pre-textual grounds, but the true and only reason Plaintiff suffered adverse employment actions is because he is African American. Making decisions constituting adverse employment actions because of a person's race or ethnicity is oppressive and malicious, and constitutes

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extreme and outrageous conduct which goes beyond all bounds of decency and is
atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community. Boeing's veiled racism is
no less damaging to affected persons than are openly and overtly racist acts. Indeed,
in an advanced society with post-racial aspirations, it is heavily-veiled and
subconscious racism which is largely responsible for perpetuating the societal
inequalities that continue to hinder the progress of, and oppress, racial minorities.

- 41. As a proximate result of the aforementioned intentional acts, Plaintiff has suffered humiliation, mental anguish, emotional, and physical distress manifesting itself in such physical symptoms general stress induced change in appearance and temperament. These damages are not presently calculable and are subject to proof at time of trial.
- In committing the above-described acts, Defendants acted in a willful, 42. oppressive and malicious manner towards Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, annoy, injure and harass Plaintiff in complete disregard to the harm that this conduct would cause him. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges, among other things, that he suffered various adverse employment actions, including terminations, failures to promote, failures to provide preferred and privileged job assignments which would allow for advancement, and hiring discrimination on the basis of their race; making decisions constituting adverse employment actions on the basis of race is outrageous conduct that goes beyond all bounds of decency and is atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION)

(By Plaintiff Against All Defendants and Does 1-10, inclusive)

43. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 42, as set forth above.

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- Government Code, section 12940(k) makes it an unlawful employment 44. practice "for an employer . . . to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring."
- 45. Defendants violated this section by failing to prevent the discrimination and harassment, as set forth more specifically in Factual Allegations ¶¶ 20-23, and in the allegations made by Plaintiff herein.
- 46. Accordingly, Government Code, section 12940(k) establishes a duty for an employer to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring. This duty includes the proper supervision of its employees to ensure that discrimination and harassment do not occur.
- By failing to properly supervise its employees, and by allowing the 47. conduct as set forth in Factual Allegations ¶¶ 20-23, and in the allegations made by Plaintiff herein, to occur, Defendant Boeing breached its duty.
- As a proximate result of that breach of duty, and of the ratification of 48. discriminatory and harassing conduct of its employees, Defendant Boeing has caused Plaintiff to suffer damages, including monetary, and in some cases emotional, harms as set forth herein. These damages are not presently calculable, and will be established according to proof at time of trial.
- As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered both economic 49. and non-economic damages. Additionally, in committing the above-described acts, Defendants acted in a willful, oppressive and malicious manner towards Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, annoy, injure and harass Plaintiff in complete disregard of the harm that this conduct would cause him. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial against all Defendants.

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SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(NEGLIGENT RETENTION)

- 50. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 49, as set forth above.
- 51. Government Code, section 12940(k) makes it an unlawful employment practice "for an employer . . . to fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring."
- 52. In some instances, including in the instant matter, all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring should include the firing or dismissal of employees who commit discriminatory or harassing conduct.
- Defendant Boeing owed, and continues to owe, Plaintiff a duty to fire, 53. dismiss, or otherwise terminate employees who commit discriminatory or harassing conduct.
- 54. Defendant breached their duty to Plaintiff and others by negligently retaining employees who acted in a discriminatory or harassing manner and allowing by misconduct to continue unabated as set forth more specifically in Factual Allegations $\P\P$ 20-23, and in the allegations made by Plaintiff herein.
- As a proximate result of that breach of duty, and of the ratification of 55. discriminatory and harassing conduct of its employees, Defendant Boeing has caused Plaintiff to suffer damages, including monetary, and in some cases emotional, harms as set forth herein. These damages are not presently calculable, and will be established according to proof at time of trial.
- 56. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered both economic and non-economic damages. Additionally, in committing the above-described acts, Defendants acted in a willful, oppressive and malicious manner towards Plaintiff and with the intent to vex, annoy, injure and harass Plaintiff in complete disregard to the

harm that this conduct would cause him. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to punitive damages in an amount according to proof at trial against all Defendants.

PRAYER FOR DAMAGES

- 1. For an award for all compensatory damages sustained by Plaintiff by reason of Defendants wrongful acts complained of herein;
- 2. For exemplary and punitive damages where allows by law;
- 3. For a permanent injunction enjoining discriminatory, unfair, and unlawful business practices;
- 4. For costs of suit incurred herein;
- 5. For attorneys' fees as allowed by law; and
- 6. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable, necessary, and just.

Dated: March 27, 2017 HANEY & YOUNG, LLP

By: /s/Gregory L. Young/ STEVEN H. HANEY GREGORY L. YOUNG Attorneys for Plaintiff, THEODORE GRIFFIN

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Plaintiff hereby requests a jury trial in this matter. Dated: March 27, 2017 HANEY & YOUNG, LLP By: <u>/s/Gregory L. Young/</u> STEVEN H. HANEY GREGORY L. YOUNG Attorneys for Plaintiff, THEODORE GRIFFIN